

The Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission (HCC)

The HCC was established in 1984 by K.S.A. 75-6502 and is responsible to “develop and provide for the implementation and administration of a state health care benefits program. The Kansas state employee health care commission which is composed of five members as follows: (1) the commissioner of insurance [Sandy Praeger]; (2) the secretary of administration [Duane Goossen]; (3) a current state employee in the classified service under the Kansas civil service act, appointed by the Governor [Charlotte Rommel of KDOT]; (4) a person who retired from a position in the classified service under the Kansas civil service act, appointed by the Governor [Connie Hafenstine]; (5) a representative of the general public appointed by the Governor [John Staten of Greenbush- one of our covered Non State groups].” The HCC meets at a minimum on a quarterly basis in an open meeting. Attendance at these meetings usually includes staff, vendors, HR officers and a few retirees. The meeting follows a structured agenda of staff reports and action items.

Employee Advisory Committee (EAC)

The EAC was established under K.S.A. 75-6510 and is “to advise the commission on matters relating to health care benefits of state officers and employees and to assist the commission in the development of policy with respect to such benefits.” The EAC is made up of twenty-one (21) members. Eighteen (18) are active state employees and three (3) retired state employees. The active employees are selected based upon gender, age, location, health plan enrollment and salary tier. The goal is for the committee members to reflect the State employee population. The members are selected from a list of volunteers who submit their names each year during Open Enrollment. Staff reviews the volunteers and recommends members to the HCC for consideration as committee members. Retirees can also put their name in for consideration but are generally selected based on staff knowledge of the individual and their ability to serve. Each member serves a three (3) year term and must then be re-appointed or replaced.

The EAC has recently gone to a longer meeting format. Meetings begin at 10:00 a.m. until noon for “brain storming session.” One contract manager (rotates) and Spud Kent are responsible for attending this session. These sessions are less structured and more conversational. The meeting reconvenes at 1:30 p.m. and the entire contract team and Spud meet with the committee. During the afternoon session, staff reports on any projects or health plan changes being considered. In addition, agency HR people and vendors are in attendance during the meetings. The audience can ask questions of staff but rarely do.

Pharmacy Advisory Committee (PhAC)

The Pharmacy Advisory Committee is an advisory committee to the prescription drug contract manager. There are no bylaws for this group. The group is made up of pharmacy and medical consultants of the State health insurance plans, Dr. Voth of Cotton O’Neil Clinic (rarely participates but remains part of the group) and our Caremark pharmacist. Dr. Jill Sumfest with Preferred Plus of Kansas is the chairperson. We review the quarterly drug statistics for the state plan, new to market drugs and topics of interest in the pharmacy arena. The meetings are done by conference call and there is currently no public audience participating. This group provides the contract manager with ideas and input on the pharmacy marketplace.

Statewide Student Insurance Advisory Committee (SAC)

The Statewide Student Insurance Advisory Committee was an advisory committee to the student insurance contract manager. Effective July 1, 2006 the responsibility for student insurance has moved to the Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) so this group is no longer meeting. KBOR is working to develop their own programs and the student insurance contact manager is assisting in this transition.